

the office over which he presided. There were many things to be done, such as the preparation of proper sewers and other improvements, before the rebuilding of the houses could be commenced, but when completed it would be found that the individual rating in the parishes alluded to would be diminished." Which, in my opinion, he failed to prove, for any one may still observe the six points where they have commenced pulling down houses, without completely clearing any one site for rebuilding. With reference to the purchase of land not being completed, &c., I beg to state that their bill enables them to take any property which may be required; and in cases of a defective title, they are empowered to have the property valued, the amount placed in the Bank of England, and then proceed to pull down the house or houses forthwith.

As to the delay arising from the making of new sewers, this delay is yet to come, for there is not an inch of ground moved for that purpose in this neighbourhood.

The Commissioners of Woods and Forests will require to make, at their own expense, a sewer from Oxford-street to Ilmington, and another from Broad-street to Long-acre; but, as there exists one in Plumtree-street at present, the Commissioners of Sewers for Westminster have agreed to make a new one at their own expense, whenever they are called upon to do so.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A PLUMBER OF PLUMTREE-STREET.

Bloomsbury, 6th March, 1844.

P.S.—Information regarding the amount of compensation awarded, I shall be most happy to send you when the purchases are completed.

ST. PAUL'S AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Sir,—Parliament being now assembled, I beg to suggest, through the medium of your valuable paper, the propriety of convening a public meeting, for the purpose of considering the steps which it may be advisable to take in reference to the present disgraceful condition of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, and the Abbey Church of St. Peter, Westminster, in order to effect, if possible, the following important objects:—

1st. The abolition of fees.

2ndly. To obtain in these churches increased and better accommodation for the poor in the cities of London and Westminster. And,

3rdly. To get the Pagan monuments, which defile and profane these holy temples, removed to some other more appropriate receptacle.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

AN ENGLISHMAN.

[We do not undertake to be answerable for each of the opinions here expressed.—Ed.]

MIDDLESEX CHURCHES.

Sir,—While the Camden Society take care of the Cambridge Churches, and the Oxford Gothic Society of the Oxford Churches, can nothing be done to preserve our fine, yet unknown, Middlesex churches from churchwarden domination, and the reign of painted deal and whitewash? Few persons are acquainted with the still handsome churches within the immediate neighbourhood of London, although barbarically mutilated. Look at *Harmondsworth Church*, with its fine row of Norman arches dividing the nave from the chancel, though every moulding is stopp'd with whitewash. Who ever heard of such a place, and who that has seen it inside, with the whitewashed columns, and every outside piece of stonework removed or covered with heavily stucco, but must indeed grieve and lament that ignorance should bear power thus to abuse man's noblest works? Look at *Harlington* again; its tower still older, and which has been beautified only last year with whitewash. Look at *Hayes*, and mourn for departed greatness and its clerestory; and at *Hendon*, whose beauty, indeed, still remains less injured than most. Need I mention more, to show that while we look farther for beauty, we neglect that which lies almost at our own doors? If more names were wanted, *Hillingdon*, *Harrow*, *Northolt*, *Hareorth*, &c., might be mentioned. Can nothing be done to save these churches from ruin? Will none attempt their deliv'rance? Will none of our *Middlesex* readers send you something connected with them? Our churches have indeed been neglected; and, worse still, injured

and spoiled: this must no longer be so. We must stop farther desecration, by boorish churchwardens, neglectful parsons, and squalid vestries, of those works, which our forefathers of blessed memory raised to the glory of the One Supreme. Yours truly,

Southall.

J. H.

I will just mention, that, among the things not destroyed, are the lych-gates at Hayes and Hendon.

[We have had some trouble in unravelling the sublimities of our zealous correspondent, and indeed have been obliged to change the positions of some of his words in order to render the phraseology readable; still, from the nature of our correspondent's hand-writing, we cannot warrant that our printer will give every word correctly as intended. We have small love for white-wash, yet are obliged to confess our belief that had not many subjects of carving been obscured by it, long ago they would either have been hacked away or purloined.—Ed.]

FOREIGN MEASURES.

Sir,—I should esteem it a favour if you or one of your readers would inform me in the following matter. I find in all foreign works (*French*) on architecture that I possess, the scales in which the drawings are made are invariably in *pieds* or *mètres*. I am desirous of knowing what proportion the scales of *pieds* or *mètres* bear to the scale of *English Feet*, which we commonly use. I am led to think more upon this point, on account of the very clever drawings exhibited lately by Professor Cockerill, in his Lectures at the Royal Academy, all drawn to the same scale, a system which I think cannot be too much admired or practised.

Your answer to the above will much oblige,

Sir, your obedient servant,

27th February, 1844.

L. O. G.

[Our correspondent will find in our 53th Number, page 80, a Comparative Table of French Measures and English Feet; for feet of different nations we refer him to any ordinary Cyclopædia.—Ed.]

### Miscellaneous.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED MATHEMATICIAN.—TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, Feb. 29.—The following letter has just been received:—"Duncan F. Gregory, Esq., M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, died here this morning at five o'clock. CANAN LODGE, Edinburgh, Feb. 29, 1844." This loss is felt by the university in general, and by the deceased gentleman's own college in particular. He died in his 31st year, of a lingering illness, which he bore to the last with manly fortitude and Christian resignation. His work of life is a calm slumber; apparently, to those who watched him, without a struggle. Mr. Gregory was one of the mid-raters of the Mathematical Honour Examination in 1842, and one of the examiners in 1843. He was the author of a very able work on Differential Calculus, and had got half-way through another on Geometry of Three Dimensions, the sheets having been printed as he proceeded. He was the chief projector of the "Cambridge Mathematical Journal," a work which already enjoys a European reputation, and was its principal contributor till his death. His family, for scientific attainments, was one of the most illustrious in Europe; and James and David Gregory, in bygone years, shed no ordinary lustre in this respect on the land of their birth. Doctor Gregory, an eminent physician of Edinburgh, now dead some years, and father both to the recently deceased Fellow of Trinity, was the author of the "Conspectus Medicinæ," and several first-rate medical works. His son inherited his amiable and estimable personal qualities, and was universally beloved and respected.—*Morning Herald*.

GEOLOGICAL.—We are informed that Mr. Hutton has completed his survey of the strata of North Derbyshire coal-field, with a coloured map, 12 by 10 feet, illustrating the various phenomena, particularly the great denudation extending from near Donfield through Whittington, Brimington, Celow, to near Chesterfield. The map is deposited in Mount St. Mary's College, near Eekingham. It enumerates twenty-two colls or griststone rocks, and twenty-one thick and thinner coals.

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO FRANCE.—The *Commerce* announces, that subsequently to the visit of the Queen of England to the Chateau d'Eu, the King commissioned several artists to decorate a gallery, to which His Majesty had given the name of "Victoria and Prince Albert Gallery." The arrival of the British fleet in the road of Trepot, the landing, entry into Eu, the dinners, concerts, visits to the church and forest, and the re-embarkation, form the subjects of so many pictures, which are to figure in the English gallery, with the busts, portraits, and statues of the principal personages who accompanied the young Queen. The object of the King's visit to Eu was to ascertain the progress made in the decoration of the new gallery.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The ordinary meeting of this society was held on Friday evening, March 1, at the society's rooms, No. 20, Bedford-street, Covent Garden, J. E. Gray, Esq., F.R.S., president in the chair. Various donations to the library and herbarium were announced. The continuation of the paper commenced at the last meeting, being "A Synoptical View of the British Fructifers Aubi," are ranged in Groups, with explanatory Remarks." The paper was accompanied by drawings and numerous specimens.

THE SCREW PROPELLER.—A trial of speed between Her Majesty's steamers *Prometheus* and *Rattler* was made in the Thames, on Saturday fortnight, over a measured distance, the former being fitted with paddles, the latter with a screw propeller, when the latter was proved to have the advantage over her opponent of nearly half a knot an hour.

THE NEW BARRACKS AT FELWOUN.—These new barracks begin to form a conspicuous feature of the locality in which they are placed, and to present an imposing appearance from various points of view. The infantry range is now nearly ready for roofing, and the cavalry range will very shortly be put in progress. There is a large accumulation of material on the ground intended for the erection of the officers' quarters, which will be begun as soon as the weather permits. The place altogether has an exceedingly stirring and cheerful appearance, being crowded with busy workshops of all sorts.—*Presson Chronicle*.

THE WOOD PAVEMENT IN CHESHIRE.—The paving committee, in their report, having recommended that the paving of Cheshire should be forthwith commenced, orders have been given to Mr. L. Stevens to complete the street with wood according to Perrins's safety system, of which a specimen was laid down last year westward of Bow Church Tower, in Cheshire. The work was commenced on Monday last.

DISCOVERY OF A SEAM OF COAL.—It is rumoured, that the gentlemen now surveying the new line of railway from Lancaster to Carlisle some days ago, discovered a seam of coal, four feet in thickness, three-quarters of a mile from Crooklands, in the direction of Burton-in-Kendal. It is supposed by some to be the terminus of a seam which runs through that part of the country extending from the Ingilton coal-fields.

THE CITY STABLE.—The equestrian statue in bronze of the Duke of Wellington, by Chantrey, is nearly completed; and it will be erected on the space now cleared in front of the Royal Exchange, in time for inauguration on the 10th of May, nearly the battle of Waterloo. It is cast from the cannon taken from the Duke's camp; and the surplus gunmetal thus appropriated, amounting to eight tons, has been divided between the Nelson Memorial and the other equestrian statue of Wellington which Mr. M. C. Wyatt is making for the west end of London.

Lord Montagu has transmitted 20*l*. and Messrs. Coutts & Co., to complete the Scott monument at Edinburgh; and Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, Lord Murray, and Sir A. Ferguson, have repeated their former subscriptions.

The Commissioners of Woods and Forests have purchased, for the sum of 500*l*., the old buildings on the south side of Holyrood House, and have appointed Mr. Donald Horne, their agent in Scotland, vice Mr. Rudelick Mackenzie, deceased.